Matthew Fairclough

Lifeline

Trombone, electronics and video projection

March 2016

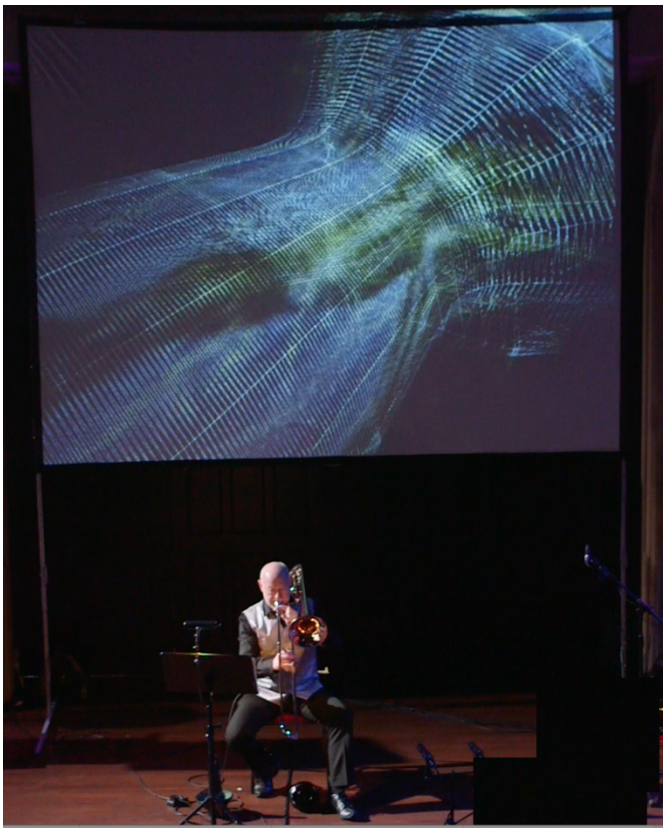
Programme Note

Lifeline is a composition for Trombone, electronic sound and video graphics. The piece explores possibilities for controlling video graphics in real time, using data streams derived from real-time analysis of a performer's sound. The aim was to create a more perceptible integration of music and video, as well as increase the sense of *liveness* in performances that feature acoustic instrumentalists and technology. The performer can manipulate and interact with the video graphics by varying their instrument's timbre and dynamic during the performance. The video graphics are generated in MAX/MSP and make use of OpenGL. The piece was premiered in Liverpool at the Open Circuit Festival, 2016.

Technical Note

The piece uses a Max Patch which is provided with the score. The trombonist can either play into a microphone on a stand, or good results can be achieved with a lavalier microphone such as a DPA 4060. The microphone should be used to balance the performer with the stereo electronic sound from the Max patch and also needs to be used to send a mono signal (via a pre-fade auxiliary send) to the Max patch, to allow control of the video. The patch outputs video to the projector and sound to a P.A. system. The video output should also be sent to an onstage video monitor to enable the performer to see the effect of their playing on the image and interact with it. The projection screen should be positioned above and behind the performer (see below) and the video monitor on the floor facing the performer. The sound designer must follow the music and use the spacebar to change cue at the places specified by the numbers in the score.

Max Patch and media for performance are available here:
https://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~mattf/lifeline.html



Lifeline

video cue

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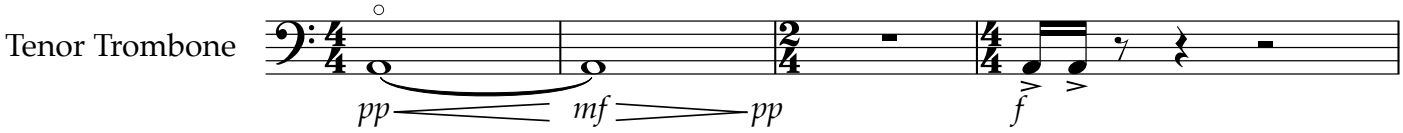
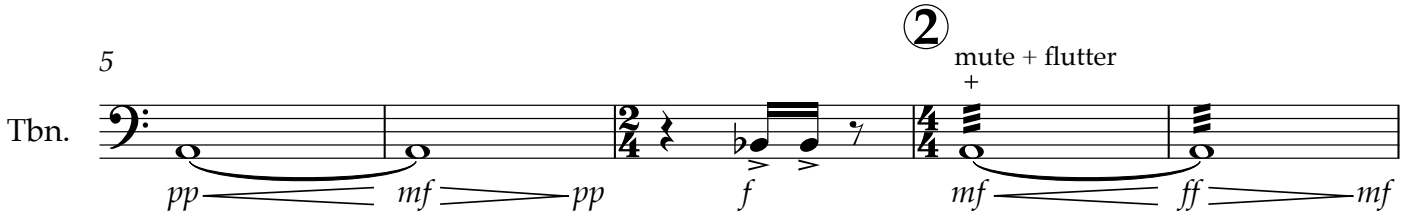
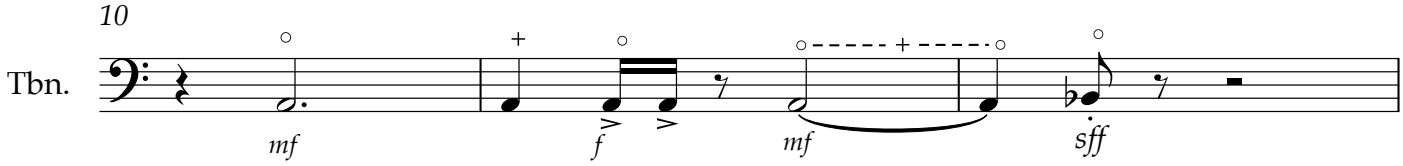
① *make the video respond through dynamic and timbral expression*

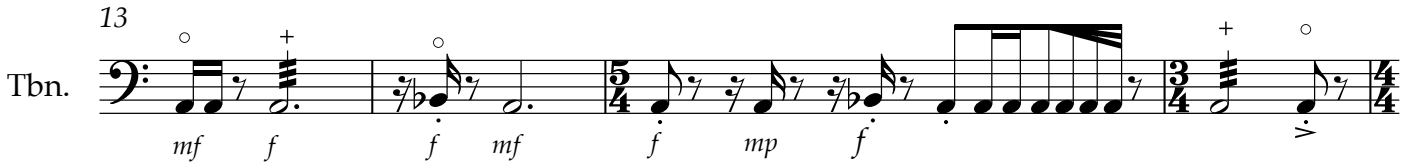
harmon mute, open and close ad lib.

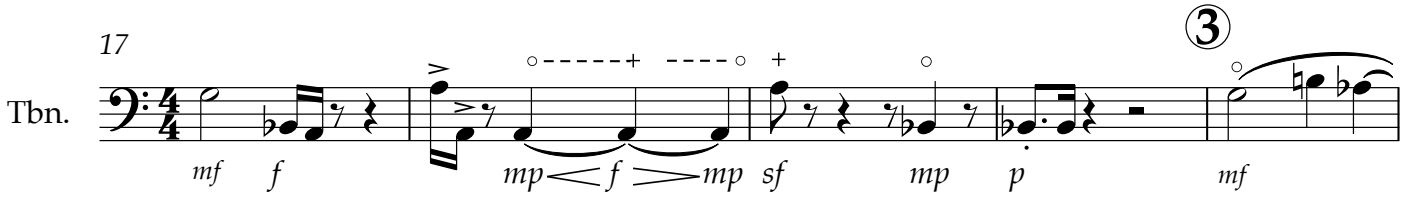
Tenor Trombone

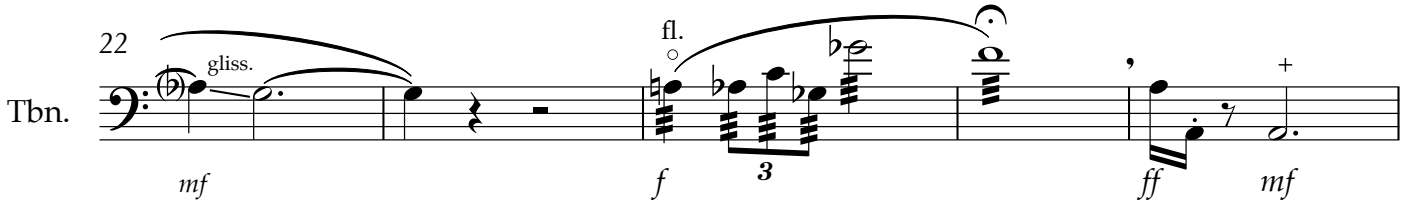


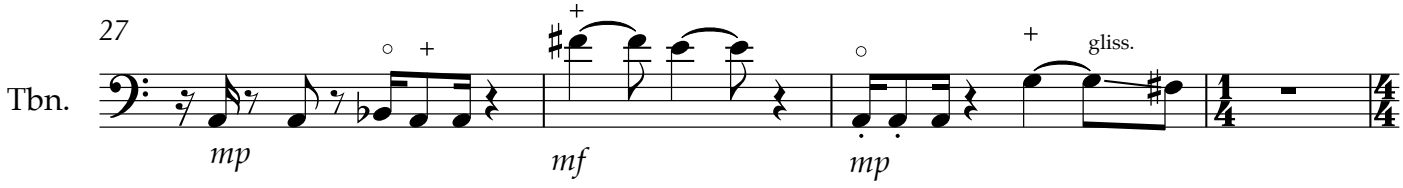


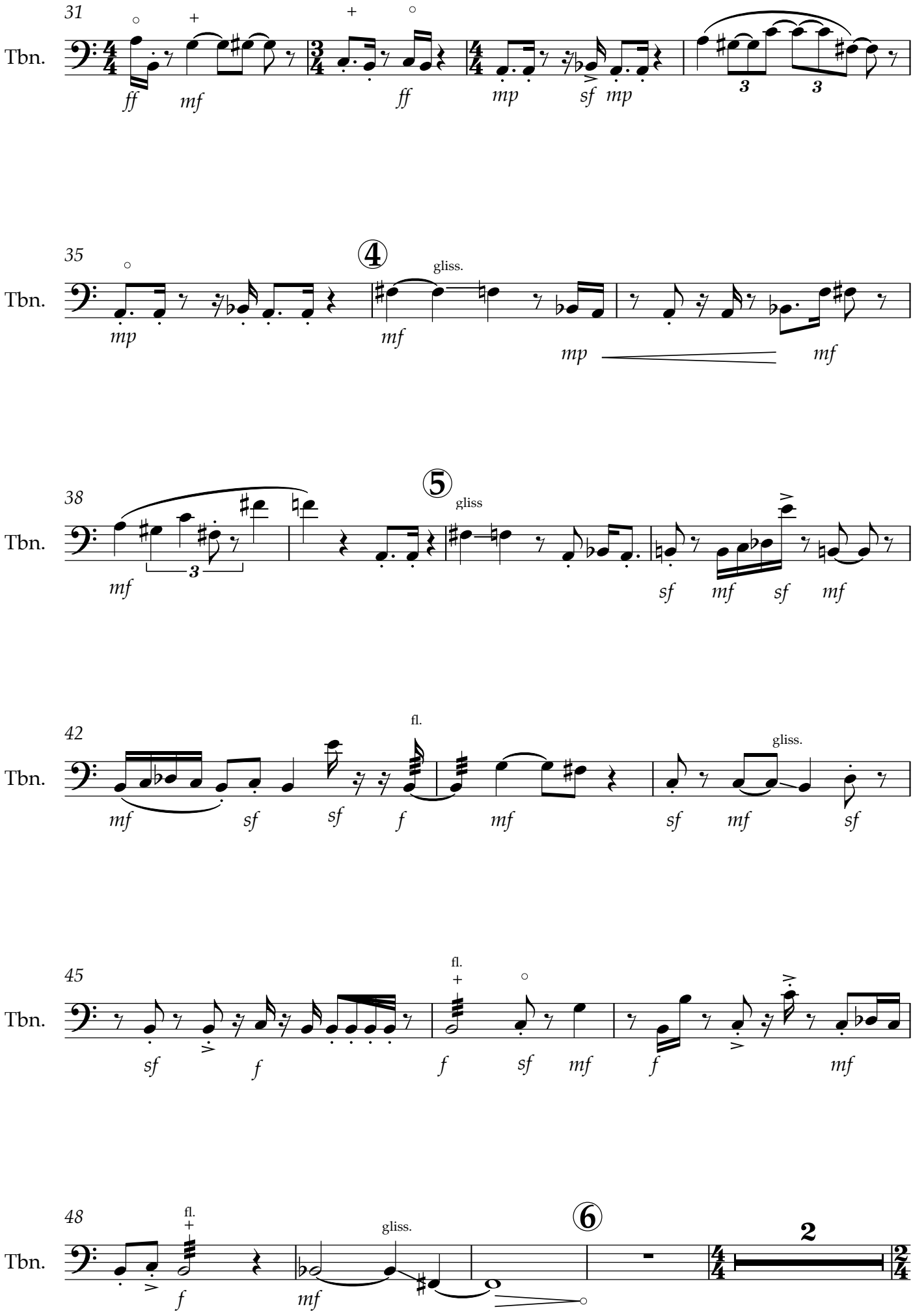











31
Tbn.
ff
mf
ff
mp
sf
mp
35
Tbn.
4
gliss.
mp
mf
mp
mf
38
Tbn.
5
gliss
mf
sf
mf
sf
mf
42
Tbn.
fl.
gliss.
mf
sf
sf
f
mf
sf
mf
sf
45
Tbn.
fl.
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f
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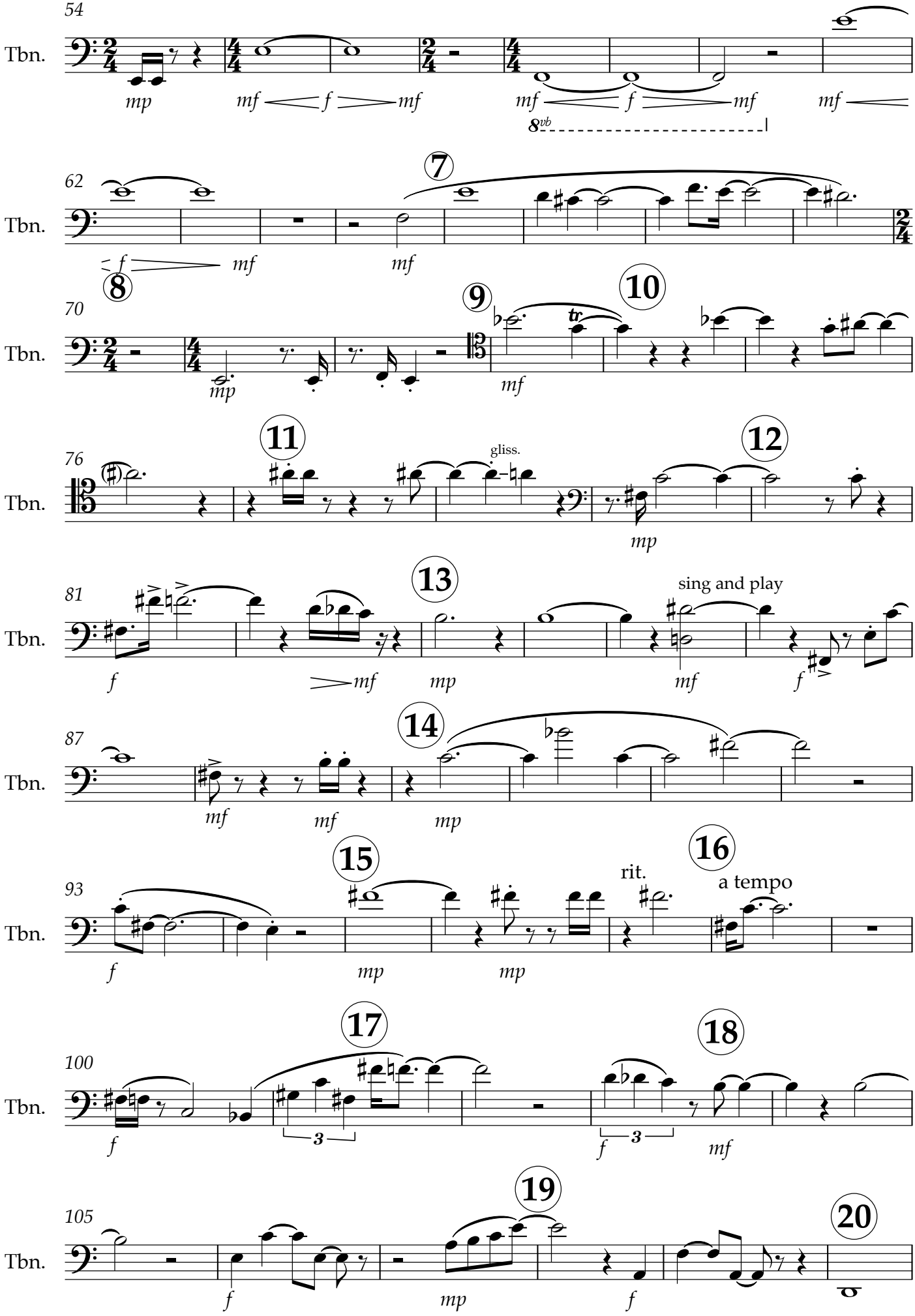
sf
mf
f
mf
48
Tbn.
fl.
gliss.
6
2
f
mf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mp
mf
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mf
mf
f
mf
8vb
mf
62
Tbn.
7
f
mf
mf
8
70
Tbn.
9
10
mp
mf
tr
76
Tbn.
11
gliss.
12
mp
81
Tbn.
13
sing and play
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mf
mp
mf
f
87
Tbn.
14
mf
mf
mp
93
Tbn.
15
16
rit.
a tempo
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mp
100
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17
18
f
3
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3
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105
Tbn.
19
20
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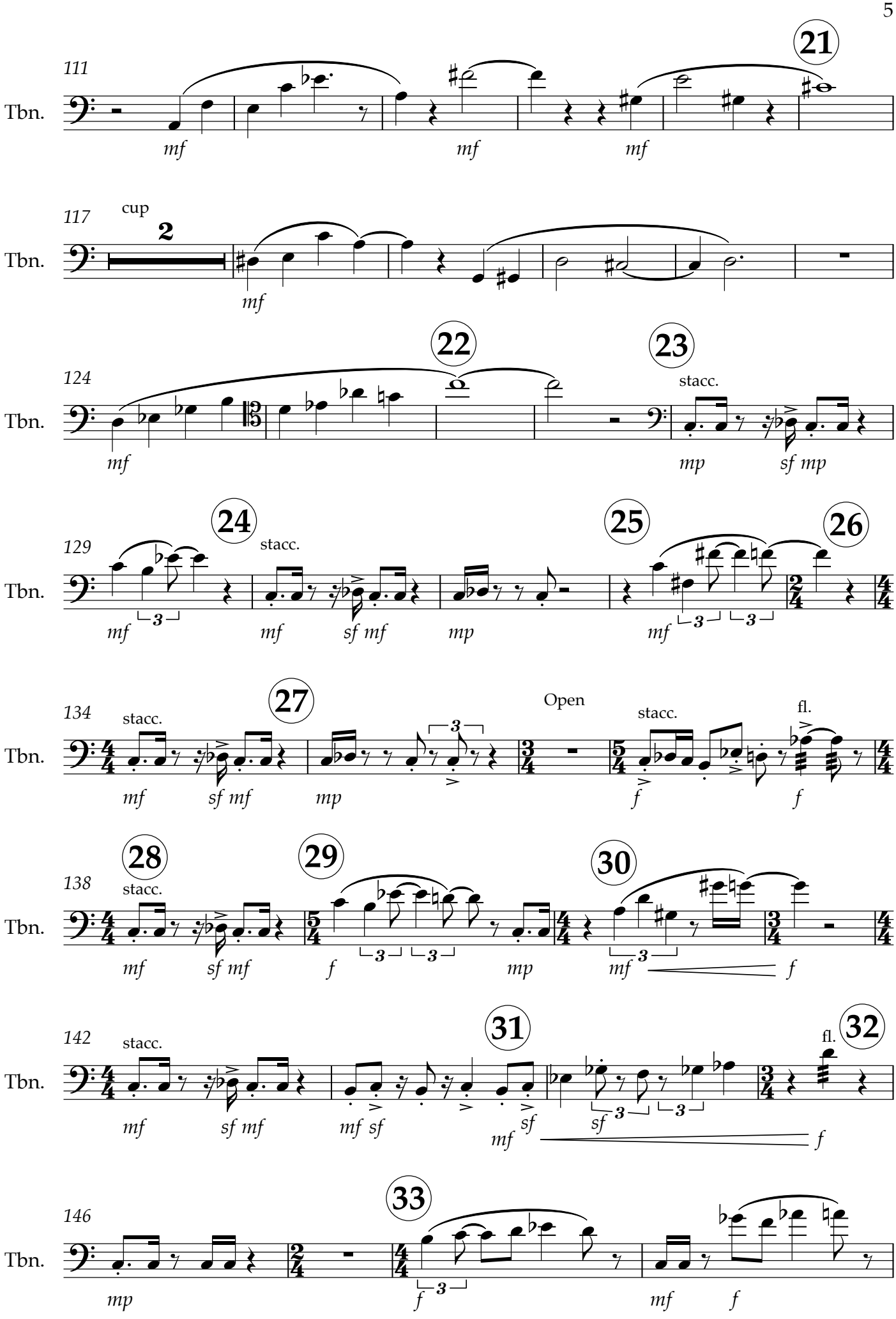
111
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21
mf
mf
mf
117
cup
2
Tbn.
mf
124
Tbn.
22
23
stacc.
mf
mp
sf mp
129
Tbn.
24
stacc.
25
26
mf
mf
sf mf
mp
mf
134
Tbn.
stacc.
27
Open
stacc.
fl.
mf
sf mf
mp
f
f
138
Tbn.
28
stacc.
29
30
mf
sf mf
f
mp
mf
f
142
Tbn.
stacc.
31
fl.
32
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sf mf
mf sf
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sf
f
146
Tbn.
33
mp
f
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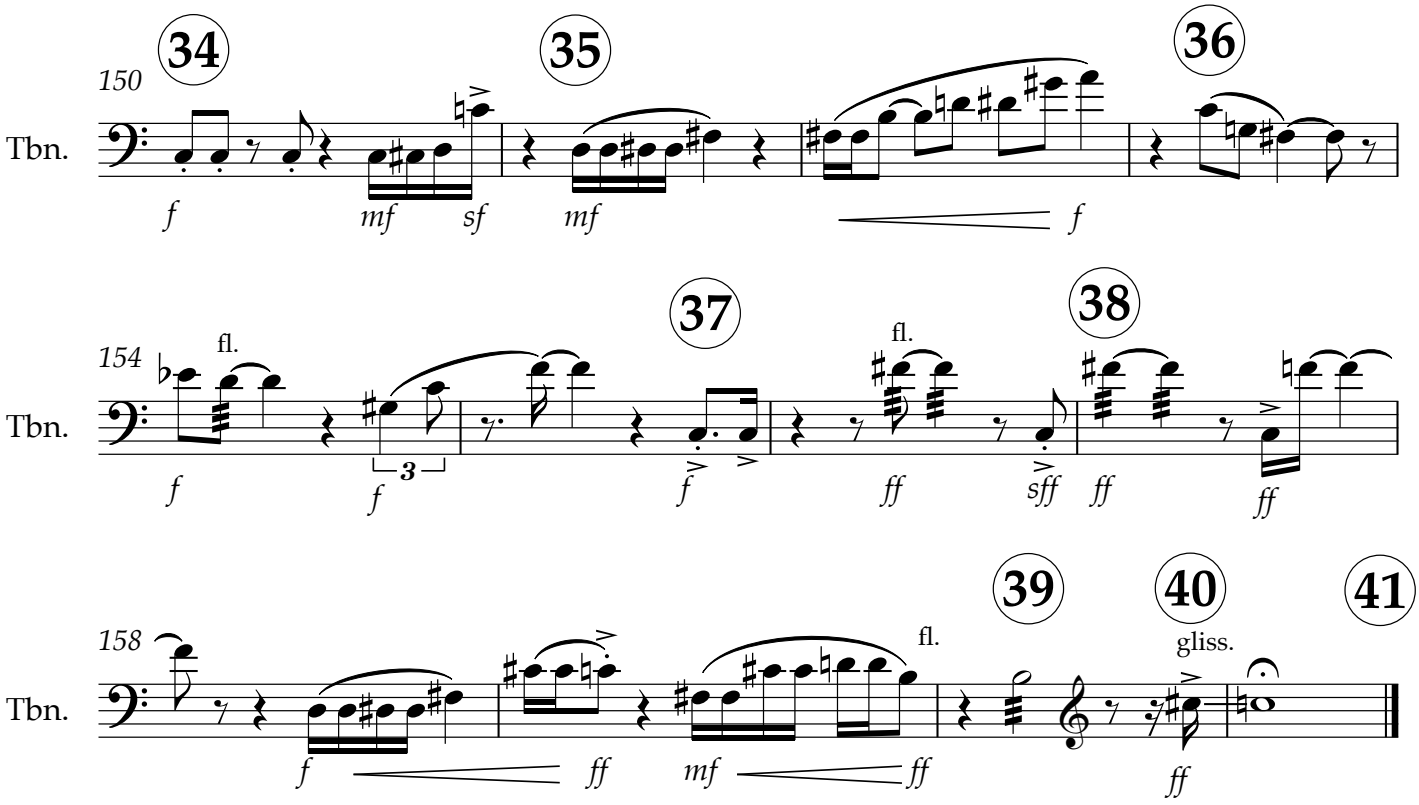
f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34
35
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3
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158
39
40
41
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gliss.
Tbn.
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